

**CARDIOVASCULAR DYNAMICS—Second Edition—** Robert F. Rushmer, M.D., Professor of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Washington Medical School. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pa., 1961. 503 pages, \$12.50.

The second edition of Rushmer's excellent book brings together under a new and more appropriate title much of the basic physiology and biophysics essential to understanding cardiovascular disease. Despite the change in title, the character of the book remains the same and the most notable changes have been the expansion and reorganization of various sections to include newer information. This is especially apparent in the sections on cardiac output and peripheral vascular control and undoubtedly reflects the author's area of primary interest.

The book is replete with many clear and pertinent diagrams which greatly clarify the subject matter. Specific reference in the text to published reviews of various aspects of the subject is of considerable value to the reader who wishes to pursue the subject more deeply. The section on electrophysiology is well done and adds to the completeness of the book. Relatively little attention has been given to the dynamic aspects of congenital heart disease and the physiological basis of cardiac therapy; this is especially notable in the light of the considerable developments that have taken place in this area since the last edition of the book.

One minor criticism is that the bibliography is relatively incomplete if the author's own work is eliminated.

The book is very readable, clear and thought-provoking. It is only slightly larger than the first edition and is highly recommended to physicians who wish to understand the fundamental bases for the modern concepts of cardiovascular disease.

MAURICE SOKOLOW, M.D.

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**NEURORADIOLOGY WORKSHOP—Volume 1—Scalp, Skull and Meninges—**Leo M. Davidoff, M.D., Active Consultant Neurosurgeon, Montefiore Hospital; Professor and Chairman, Department of Neurosurgery, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York; Harold G. Jacobson, M.D., Chief, Division of Diagnostic Radiology, Montefiore Hospital; Professor of Clinical Radiology, New York University School of Medicine, New York; and Harry M. Zimmerman, M.D., Chief, Division of Laboratories, Montefiore Hospital; Professor of Pathology, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, New York. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Park Avenue South, New York 16, N. Y., 1961. 256 pages, \$16.50.

This monograph is somewhat of a departure from conventional texts. It consists essentially of the edited reports of the weekly conference of the neurology and neurosurgery staffs held in the department of radiology at the Montefiore Hospital. The dramatis personae include the chiefs of neurosurgery, radiology, pathology and neurology at that and at some of its associated institutions.

Following an excellent introduction which deals with contrast studies of central nervous system structures, there is a brief chapter on craniocerebral tumors, and then two long chapters dealing with a series of case reports, adequately illustrated and discussed.

There are fourteen case reports of lesions of the scalp and skull, and twenty-eight case reports of meningiomas.

There is one paragraph in the introduction which bears reprinting in full: "There is an unhappy tendency nowadays when pneumoencephalography, angiography and myelography are so easily available, to overlook the very valuable contributions toward diagnosis that can be made by a *careful study of the plain roentgenograms* of the skull and spine. It is easy to fall into such practices, and even when for the sake of completeness plain roentgenographic studies are made preliminary to special investigations, the plain

films are sometimes not interpreted or the report is not yet available to the clinician before he goes ahead with more definitive studies. We would very strongly urge against this practice and, except in emergencies, would recommend that appropriate views, including stereoscopic studies, be made and meticulously reviewed before further investigation is undertaken. If this is done, it is safe to say that in a considerable number of cases, further studies with contrast media may become unnecessary or, if still desirable, may prove confirmatory of diagnoses arrived at through examination of the plain roentgenograms."

The authors then go on to emphasize that in the United States the plain film studies are best made by standard stereoscopic PA, AP, lateral and occipital views of the skull. Under special circumstances these studies are augmented by such additional views as are indicated. However, the standard set of four stereoscopic pairs is recommended as a preliminary in all brain tumor suspects. With this your reviewer heartily agrees.

There is an entertaining section on the matter of "Radiological and clinical correlations." Since a good radiologist is also a clinician, the terms are not well met. What the authors mean is "Should radiological clinicians and bedside clinicians consult on these cases?" The answer obviously is "Yes." The general radiologist can maintain a competent degree of skill in the interpretation of a majority of central nervous system lesions suitable for radiologic study. There is of course, a good place for a specialist in neuroradiology in very large centers, but the preferred arrangement for the majority of hospitals and communities in this country is unquestionably one in which the general radiologist consults with the neurologist or neurosurgeon in the matter at hand.

The illustrations are, fortunately, in negative form, similar to the original roentgenograms. However, many have been "doctored" by the method known as logetronics. This tends to increase the contrast to an undesirable degree and, at least in some instances, to decrease the detail. The text is clear and there is a brief index. References are kept to a minimum.

L. H. GARLAND, M.D.

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**THE CHOICE OF A MEDICAL CAREER—**Essays on the Fields of Medicine, edited by Joseph Garland, M.D. SC.D. (HON.), editor, New England Journal of Medicine; Consultant Editor, British Practitioner; and Joseph Stokes III, M.D., Associate in Preventive Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Associate Editor, New England Journal of Medicine. J. B. Lippincott Company, East Washington Square, Philadelphia 5, Pennsylvania, 1961. 231 pages, \$5.00.

This series of excellent articles on "The Choice of a Medical Career" by prominent men in American medicine really adds little to what has often been said. The controversy about basic science vs. "clinical" medicine, the art of practice and the patient as a person are frequently touched on by the various essayists, and the advantages of the different branches of medicine are supported by specialists in each field. Everyone seems a little bit on the defensive about the "practice" of medicine, as he may well be, these days, when the pendulum has swung far to one side and the "basic scientists" in medical schools are in the saddle. Few any longer seem to accept the view that both fundamental scientists and clinicians with a wide experience of disease and a knowledge of how to handle people can co-exist to advantage in a medical school, and both serve a useful purpose. *Delenda est Carthago.*

This little book can however certainly be read to advantage by prospective medical students; it contains much wisdom and not a little interesting historical material.

ARTHUR L. BLOOMFIELD, M.D.